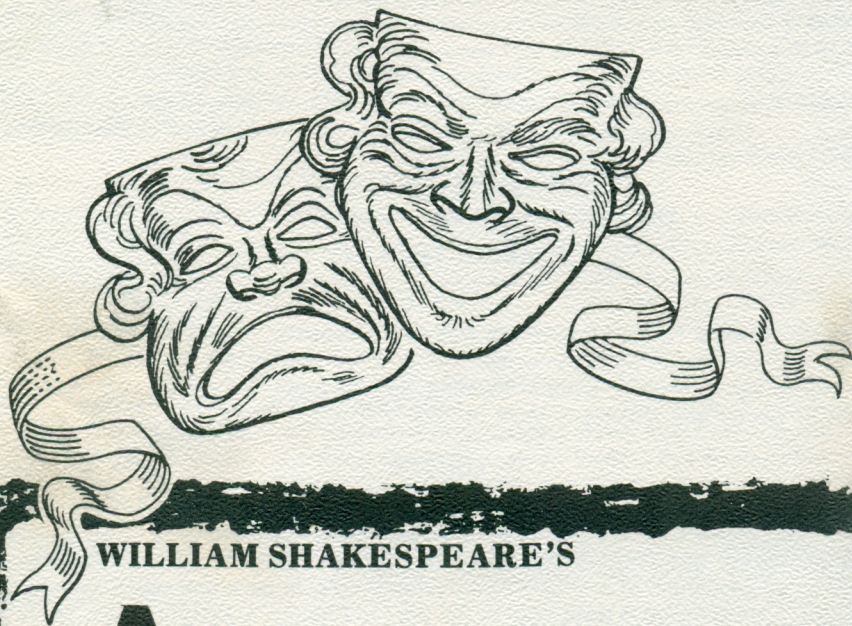


SUMTER LITTLE THEATRE

SUMTER, SOUTH CAROLINA



WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE'S

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM

Directed by Tom Prewett

October 14, 15 and 16, 1971

CAST
(in Order of Appearance)

THESEUS — OBERON.....	Fred Carrico
HIPPOLYTA — TITANIA.....	Kaye Shirey
PHILOSTRATE — PUCK.....	John Conway
HERMIA.....	Patricia Barnes
LYSANDER.....	Mark Kirk
HELENA.....	Vicki Winkles
DEMETRIUS.....	Robert Ayers
EGEUS — PETER QUINCE.....	Jimmy Milling
NICK BOTTOM.....	Bill Dendy
FRANCIS FLUTE.....	Jimmy Dendy
TOM SNOUT.....	John Potter
ROBIN STARVELING.....	George Warren
SNUG.....	Arthur Jeffords
FAIRIES — ATTENDANTS.....	Eileen Varner, Lynne Eldridge Carla Damron, Beverly Salisbury, Nancy Gussio, and Dianne Eaton
MUSICIANS.....	Al Newman (guitar), Arnie B. Jordan (guitar) and Lucia Woodward (recorder)

SETTING: Athens and a nearby wood.

There will be one fifteen-minute intermission.

ABOUT THE PLAY

DATE

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM was first published in 1600, but had already been "sundry times publicly acted." It is often suggested that its first performance was in honor of a noble wedding, and the most likely one was that of the Earl of Derby and Elizabeth Vere in 1595.

SOURCE

No principal source is known, unusual in Shakespeare. (LOVE'S LABOR'S LOST and THE TEMPEST are the only other examples.) According to C. L. Barber, "Shakespeare gathered up in a play the sort of pageantry which was usually presented piecemeal at aristocratic entertainments, in park and court, as well as in hall." Allusions have been seen in the play to Chaucer's Knight's Tale, North's translation of Plutarch, Apuleius's Golden Ass, Ovid, and medieval romances.

PLOT

Theseus, Duke of Athens, is about to marry Hippolyta. Bottom the weaver and his friends are preparing to play the tragedy of Pyramus and Thisbe for the Duke after the wedding.

Hermia and Lysander, two lovers whose love is opposed, plan to escape from Athens. Also in love with Hermia is Demetrius, who is loved by Helena. Oberon, king of the fairies, has quarrelled with his queen, Titania. To punish her, he orders Puck to find a magic juice which, squeezed into the eyes of sleepers, will make them love the first being they see upon waking.

In the woods, Lysander, touched with the juice of the herb, falls in love with Helena, who is following Demetrius. Titania, her eyes under the same spell, falls in love with Bottom, whose head Puck has changed into that of an ass.

When Oberon is satisfied, the spells are lifted. The lovers are brought together. In the entertainments that follow the weddings of the three couples, Bottom and his company act their play.

COMMENT ON THE PLAY

Here is a play about fairies, about the adventures of four lovers and some rustics in a moonlit wood; and Shakespeare wrote it for a theater in which no visual illusion, as we interpret the term, was possible. His resource — all others beside it negligible — was the spoken word.

— H. Granville — Baker (1924)

The play is called "a dream," but what does this mean? Certainly someone will answer, it means that fairies play, citizens perform a comedy . . . lovers pursue one another . . . but where is the sense and meaning of these scenes? . . . The sense and meaning are in ourselves. The play takes place all the time — now it happens to you, now to me.

— Bjornstjerne Bjornson (1865)

As the lovers go off to marriage, we are likely to feel that they have been through a necessary but profoundly disturbing experience, and that now they are safely on the other side of it. The experience has grown "to something of great constancy," enriching their lives just as Bottom's "rare vision" enriches his. They bring back into the ordinary world something that they learned in the world of imagination. The illusory has its part in the total experience of reality.

— Stanley Wells (1967)

PRODUCTION STAFF

DIRECTOR.....	Tom Prewett
STAGE MANAGER	Caleen Watts
TECHNICAL ADVISOR.....	Katie Damron
PROMPTER.....	Betty Potter
LOBBY DISPLAY.....	Works of Sam Fiorini
MUSICAL COMPOSITION.....	Al Newman, Joseph Armbrust Johann Brahms, Felix Mendelssohn
SET CONSTRUCTION and DECORATION.....	Walter Sharp, Chairman Grey Adams, Loretta Ardis, Robert Ayers, Juanita Byrd, Don Cerra, Booth Chilcull, Ed Damron, Jr., Katie Damron, George Finley, Pat Finley, Bob Jennings, Jim Johnston, Blaine Leonard, Jane Leverich, Beverly Salisbury, Kaye Shirey, David Sohn, A.J. Walters, Caleen Watts.
PUBLICITY.....	Katie Damron Mary Louise Quincy, Deanie Ray, Walter Sharp
PROPERTIES.....	Lee Craig, Chairman Martha Geddings, Starr Geddings
COSTUMES.....	Tarlie Bryan (chairman), Libby Adams, Linda Bartlett, Martha Finley
MAKE-UP.....	Loretta Ardis (chairman), Shirley Sheenan, Nancy Timmerman, Lynn Tucker, Ruby Jean Watson
LIGHTING.....	Lloyd Isman (chairman) David Allgood
BOX OFFICE.....	Retha Mark (chairman) Libby Adams, Beth Bochman, Gail Boose, Corinna Brosman, Lucille Buddin, Helen Carroll, Mary Ann Gregoire, Claire Jenkins, Betty Kennedy, Satchie McKenzie, Muriel Mettles, Frances Patterson, Mary Parker, Priscilla Perez, Deanie Ray, Andrena Ray, Jan Taylor, Gloria Tipton, Linda Wissner, Mary Ann Wittschen
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